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Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 10:07 AM
To: Hanchett, James (DPH)
Subject: FW: September 24, 2010- TGIF

The September 24, 2010 edition of TGIF is ready for reading. Inside you will find:

- Information about GIC Reimbursements for Medical Expenses accrued between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010
- Information about Upcoming Retirement Benefit Seminars – there is one in Westfield on Tuesday, October 5!
- Information about the National "Take-Back Initiative" being held tomorrow by the DEA in a town near you
- DYS' being awarded the "Bridging the Opportunity Gap" Award
- Military Families "Day in the Park" event taking place tomorrow
- National Hispanic Heritage Month information – plus lots more!

Beginning September 30, 2010, texting while driving in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts becomes illegal. The Safe Driving Law **outlaws the use of all mobile devices while driving for drivers 17 and under**, except in emergencies and **bans texting by all drivers**.

The Law prohibits use of mobile electronic devices behind the wheel including phones*, text messaging devices, pagers, PDAs, laptop computers, video games, disc players, cameras and TVs.

Penalties for violation of the Safe Driving Law are most severe for Junior Operators and include a 60-day license suspension, an attitudinal course and \$100 fine for first offence. Subsequent offences carry stiffer penalties.

Older Drivers face a \$35 fine for improper phone use* and a \$100 fine for texting.

The offenses are considered "moving violations" and are subject to surcharge on your auto insurance premiums.

*Improper phone use by drivers older drivers is defined as not having at least one hand on the wheel while talking on the phone.